GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 3 OF 1946.

Confidential until released for publication as under:-

Morning Papers .. 16th May, 1946.
Evening Papers .. 16th May, 1946.

RETAIL PRICES - MARCH QUARTER, 1946.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for March quarter 1946 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1081, Toowoomba 1095, Rockhampton 1086, Townsville 1123, Bundaberg 1061 and Warwick 1075.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

City	March Quarter, 1946 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared with -		
	Year ended June, 1939	March Quarter 1945	December Quarter 1945
Brisbane	25.3	0.9	0.7
Toowoomba	28.7	0.8	0.6
Rockhampton	26.1	0.8	0.6
Townsville	23.1	0.5	0.8
Bundaberg	26.2	0.5	0.5
Warwick	30.8	1.3	0.4

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Dec. Qr., 1945.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Dec. Qr., 1945.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Dec. Qr., 1945.
Brisbane	13.9	1.2	75.8	0.8	19.1	-
Toowoomba	24.8	1.3	72.6	0.9	18.4	-0.2
Rockhampton	13.2	0.7	75.3	0.7	21.5	0.3
Townsville	11.7	1.6	73.5	0.7	18.2	0.1
Bundaberg	14.4	1.7	73.2	0.5	16.3	-1.3(a)
Warwick	18.4	0.7	74.9	0.1	21.4	-

(a) This decrease was caused by a sharp decline in the average price of firewood.

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index numbers for March quarter, 1946 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 929, Toowoomba 954, Rockhampton 916, Townsville 986, Bundaberg 892 and Warwick 900.

From December quarter 1945 to March quarter 1946 the "B" Series Index increased in all towns, the percentage increases being Brisbane 0.8%, Toowoomba 0.8%, Rockhampton 0.5%, Townsville 1.0%, Bundaberg 1.4% and Warwick 0.8%.

The increases were caused mainly by a seasonal rise in the price of eggs which was further accentuated in Bundaberg by an increase in beef prices in the month of March.

The rent index increased in Rockhampton (0.1%), Bundaberg (0.6%) and Warwick (0.5%) but remained stationary in all other towns.

Compared with March quarter 1945 the "B" Series index increased in Brisbane 0.5%, Toowoomba 0.5%, Townsville 0.6%, Bundaberg 0.5% and Warwick 1.4%, but decreased in Rockhampton 0.2%.

The rent index showed no movement in Brisbane and Townsville, but increases were recorded in Toowoomba 0.2%, Rockhampton 0.4%, Bundaberg 0.9% and Warwick 0.9%.

Comparison of Costs in Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts, for the various Queensland cities, necessary in March quarter 1946, to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 0.	1. 0. 0.
Toowoomba ..	1. 0. 3.	1. 0.10.	1. 0. 0.	19. 8.
Rockhampton ..	1. 0. 1.	1. 0. 9.	17.10.	1. 0. 4.
Townsville ..	1. 0. 9.	1. 1.11.	1. 0. 1.	1. 0. 0.
Bundaberg ..	19. 7.	1. 1. 2.	15. 9.	19.11.
Warwick ..	19.11.	1. 0. 7.	17. 3.	19.10.

Comparison of Commonwealth and State Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage a.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series b.	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage b.	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s.d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s.d.
Queensland	1081	4.17. 0.	4.17. 0.	-	1084	4.17. 8.	4.17.8.	-
N.S.W.	1151	5. 3. 3.	4.19. 0.	4.3.	1148	5. 3. 5.	4.19.0	4.5
Victoria	1141	5. 2. 5.	4 18 0.	4.5.	1137	5. 2. 5.	4.17.10	4.7
South Aust.	1110	4.19. 7.	4 14 0.	5.7.	1106	4.19. 8.	4.14. 0	5.8
West.Aust.	1116	5. 0. 2.	5. 0. 1.	1.	1125	5. 1. 4.	5. 0. 7	9
Tasmania	1120	5. 0. 6.	4.15. 0.	5.6.	1105	4.19. 7.	4.15.0	4.7

a. Current State Basic Wage as at 1st May, 1946.

b. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1. THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals)

CITY	Year Ended Dec. 1928	Year Ended June, 1939	Year Ended March, 1946	QUARTERS ENDED - March 1945	June 1945	September 1945	December 1945	March 1946
Brisbane ..	917	863	1074	1071	1072	1069	1074	1081
Toowoomba ..	906	851	1089	1086	1088	1085	1088	1095
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1082	1077	1083	1077	1080	1086
Townsville ..	1023	912	1115	1117	1115	1109	1114	1123
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1055	1056	1053	1049	1056	1061
Weighted Average Five Cities (a)	915	864	1078	1075	1076	1073	1077	1084
Warwick ..	914	822	1068	1061	1059	1066	1071	1075

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No.2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.
(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY	Year Ended Dec. 1928	Year Ended June, 1939	Year Ended March, 1946	QUARTERS ENDED - March 1945	June 1945	September 1945	December 1945	March 1946
Brisbane ..	901	852	925	924	926	923	922	929
Toowoomba ..	833	821	950	949	953	947	946	954
Rockhampton ..	858	837	916	918	922	916	911	916
Townsville ..	1047	916	980	980	983	975	976	986
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	887	888	890	884	880	892
Weighted Average Five Cities (a)	892	851	929	928	930	927	925	933
Warwick ..	841	768	894	888	886	896	893	900

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No.3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES
Brisbane.

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF - Dec. 1945	March 1946	Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June 1939	MONTH OF - Dec. 1945	March 1946
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats-flaked 1 lb.	3.57	4.17	4.08
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef-Sirloin Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.50	12.50
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.93	3.93	Beef-Steak Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	17.50	17.50
Jam (Plum) 1½lb.	8.02	12.66	12.61	Beef-Steak Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.90	7.90
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	12.91	12.91	Beef-Rolled Brisket 1 lb.	5.48	8.10	8.10
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.37	8.37	Mutton-Leg 1 lb.	7.75	8.50	8.50
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.38	2.89	Mutton-Chops Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	9.00	9.00
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.97	6.97				
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.82	19.82				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.09	15.14				
Eggs .. 1doz.	19.69	22.00	27.91				

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,
BRISBANE.
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